

Calling all Marines... Mom seeks help in chartering Young Marines unit

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STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Heinrich, a Beaufort resident and mother of six, is attempting to charter a Young Marines detachment aboard Parris Island and is in need of help.

So far, she has had some luck in her quest, but needs permission from Depot officials before beginning to recruit young individuals for the program. She also needs as many volunteers as she can get.

“I have proposed to try and get a Young Marines unit started on Parris Island, being that there are a lot of people on this side of Beaufort who have interest in a program such as this,” explained Heinrich, who does research work for children as a guardian ad litem.

Founded in 1958, the Young Marines is the official youth program of the Marine Corps League. Its mission is to promote the mental, moral and physical development of young Americans, ages

8-18, through a wide variety of activities specifically designed to develop greater self esteem, discipline and self confidence in its members.

The program starts with an introductory 13-week “boot camp,” usually a few hours each week, and continues on to include activities like close order drill, hiking, organized athletics, parades, field trips and community service.

Heinrich believes a Young Marines unit aboard Parris Island would provide what many of today’s youth are lacking.

“So many things are missing in today’s kids – like patriotism,” she said. “There are so many children of deployed service members who could use the structure, the mentoring and proponents of physical fitness from a program like this, especially civilian kids. With this program, they’ll have an idea of what it’s like to be a service member.”

In order for Heinrich’s plan to get off the ground, she needs to recruit the nec-

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– Elizabeth Heinrich, Beaufort mother looking to start a Parris Island Young Marines detachment

essary volunteers before submitting the proper paperwork to the higher authorities. So far, she has recruited seven volunteers, including a few retired service members and spouses, but needs at least one more volunteer – a former, retired, reserve or active duty Marine, who is willing to serve as the unit’s commanding officer.

“There’s got to be someone out there

who thinks ‘I bet I can make a difference in the world’ – there has to be,” she pleaded. “I know there are people out there and on base who would be willing to help.”

Heinrich said her children are the ones who inspired her to start a Young Marine program in the first place. She attempted to enroll two of her children into the Beaufort Young Marines aboard MCAS Beaufort, but was denied for a year due to a lack of sufficient volunteers.

“My children were very disappointed,” said Heinrich.

Seeing as Parris Island would be a perfect place to host a Young Marines unit, Heinrich decided to try and start one of her own.

“Parris Island has what we need – a training facility, ropes, [physical training] stuff – everything ready to go,” she said.

Heinrich said she has a waiting list of children who want to sign up for the

program, and already has a list of activities they would be able to participate in after the unit is launched.

“They’ll have a lot of academic testing and all kinds of continuing training, like compass navigation, survival techniques, opportunities for war museum visits and perhaps trips to the battle ship in Charleston,” she said. “This will give them a real take on what it’s all about.”

With sufficient volunteers and enough support for the program, the possibilities for the unit are endless, said Heinrich.

“The more volunteers we have, the more participation we get,” she said. “Provided that we have the backup, this could be an incredible program. I intend to really build this up and make it a successful program.”

For more information about the Young Marines, visit their Web site at www.theyoungmarines.org, or to volunteer contact Heinrich at 524-5956.



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer
Corporal Joseph Strain and his military working dog Bosco, a Dutch Sheppard, perform a random vehicle inspection Jan. 30. Random vehicle inspections are one of the many services military policemen provide aboard the Depot.

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last Monday,” said Ronda M. Phillips, assistant manager for the Triangle Store. “They both came into the store, they both purchased something, and both drove off and did not pay for their gas.”

They may have overlooked their purchase initially, but they did not overlook it for long.

“They both came back and paid the next day with [PMO’s] help,” said Phillips.

According to Phillips, the problem seems to exist in patrons not being mindful of purchases.

“Pay attention to what is on your receipt,” said Phillips. “One of the patrons said she honestly did not look at what she had signed.”

Some may think it is the responsibility of the cashier to put the charge on the bill, but all are accountable.

“A similar thing happened to my sister while on vacation,” said Phillips. “She bought a \$20-shirt, and the man charged her a \$120. She didn’t catch that until her bill came in the mail.”

Avoiding that kind of mistake can be devastating. That is why the employees of the store are taking precautions to stop these events from happening in the future.

“We have been training the girls to give the customers five minutes,” said Phillips. “If they don’t come in, then they get a manger, and we will immediately call PMO.”

Another practice the management has put into place is asking customers if they have gasoline to pay for.

“Even if there is no one in the bays we teach them to ask,” she said.

Some customers pump gas and then make additional purchases, said Phillips. Asking the customers may remind the ones who are somewhat

absent-minded that they have gasoline.

The store also pushes taking notice and writing down the type of vehicle that is in the stall.

“I will sometimes write it down,” said Phillips. “‘Pump three, green car.’ I will even try to take down whether it is an [car] or a truck.”

The consequences of not paying for gasoline vary, according to Shappee.

“That would be determined if they are just civilian or civilian employees,” he said. “The report will go to the base magistrate in their legal office and they will determine which punishments they will take, which, as far as I know, can range from a fine up to being permanently barred from the base, depending on the situations and circumstances. If they are military, it will go to their units for whatever actions their units deem necessary.”

Off base, the consequences can be equally as harsh as what patrons would see on the Depot.

According to South Carolina statute section 16-13-185, if someone pumps gasoline and does not pay for it, that person is guilty of a misdemeanor. If convicted they will be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both. On the discretion of the sentencing judge, the individual’s license can also be suspended for 30 to 90 days.

As of December 2003, 25 states passed laws in which a judge has the discretion to suspend the driver’s license of someone convicted of gas theft, according to the National Association of Convenience Stores Web site. In fact, some states have put stickers on the pumps with a picture of a trooper holding out an identification card and saying, “Pay for your gas or lose it.”

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ferent faces and expand their ability to work with the public more.”

Aside from the experience the MPs will gain, the merger will also help build a better relationship between the two installations, said Plate.

Although there will be no military policemen actually attached to Parris Island, the services they provide will remain the same, ensured Robinson.

“Services will not change with regards to vehicle registration, security, traffic enforcement and random vehicle inspections,” he said. “The outsider won’t notice anything different.”

The merger with the Air Station will not affect the MPs’ control and response operations aboard Parris Island in any way because, although they will be stationed with the Headquarters and Headquar-ters Squadron aboard the Air Station, most MPs will continue to reside

on Parris Island.

This will reduce the response time for Depot incidents from 30-60 minutes, if the MP is responding from the Air Station, to 15 minutes or less, explained Robinson.

Another issue the MOA outlined was the movement and sustainment of certain PMO assets.

“It should not be an expensive transition because most of the weapons and a lot of assets that are geared toward Parris Island’s mission will stay here,” he said.

Although there will be inevitable hurdles to overcome along the way, Robinson said the long-term effects of the merger will benefit everyone involved.

“Our goal is to be running smoothly within 30 days,” he said.

“It’s always rough in the beginning, but we have a plan, and it’s a good plan. On this side of the house, we’re excited for the change, and I think we’ll all benefit from it,” Robinson added.

